

# AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS REUNION

BUFFALO/NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SEPTEMBER, 2019





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# **Amphibious Ships Reunion**

## **Buffalo, New York**

### **September 5 – 9, 2019**

**Arneb - Bayfield - Bexar - Cambria - Catamount - Chilton  
Fort Marion - Gunston Hall - Lenawee - LSM-297 - LSM-419 - Okanogan  
Pickaway - Rankin - Rockbridge - Telfair - Wyandot - Yancey**

The third annual Amphibious Ships Reunion began on Thursday afternoon, September 5, 2019 at the Millennium Buffalo Hotel in suburban Buffalo, New York.

Sponsored by The USS Rankin Association and the USS Yancey reunion group, the event included organized reunion groups from six other gator ships: Bayfield, Bexar, Cambria, Chilton, Pickaway, and Telfair.

Additional attendees included shipmates and guests from Arneb, Catamount, Fort Marion, Gunston Hall, Lenawee, LSMs 297 & 419, Okanogan, Rockbridge, and Wyandot.

Total attendance was 160 people: eighty-one shipmates and 79 guests from eighteen different ships. Five amphibious types were represented: AKA/LKAs, APA/LKAs, LSDs and LSMs.

Several people arrived on Wednesday to meet friends from previous reunions and to familiarize themselves with the hotel and its surroundings.

Early Thursday morning saw the arrival of an abundance of soft drinks and snacks from Sam's



Club. Later in the morning came deliveries of beer, wine, and spirits from local suppliers. Former Rankin Marine Willie Dunning came in with his usual contribution—ten big bottles of top-shelf spirits, including Jim Beam bourbon, Bacardi Select rum, and Famous Grouse Scotch.

The reunion officially began on Thursday afternoon, when Ray Casey and Catherine Conte began distributing registration packets to the assembled multitude. Well over a hundred people lined up in a semi-orderly fashion to get their



name tags, event tickets, liberty cards, and other paraphernalia. This year, every attendee got a lapel button featuring their ship's logo or crest, courtesy of The USS Rankin Association. The authentic-looking liberty cards came from ex-Personnelman Jim Rosenow of the USS Telfair.

During and after registration, people flowed into the adjacent Hospitality Room to greet old friends and maybe meet some new ones, or to just have some refreshments from our impressive stock of drinks and snacks. A good time was had by all, as we prepared for the upcoming meal.

The day continued with an all-hands welcome reception featuring an outstanding prime rib buffet in the hotel's greenery-filled courtyard. Ray Casey and Skip Sander welcomed all to the reunion, Steve Malloy said grace and dinner was served.

Many of the diners adjourned to the hospitality room and continued their conversations late into the night.

After a private breakfast Friday morning, we loaded three buses for our trip to Lockport, NY, where we boarded boats for a cruise on the Erie Canal. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and we had a fun and relaxing morning.

The 363-mile Erie Canal was constructed from 1817-1825 to create a water route from New York city and the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes

and the American midwest. In a time when bulk goods were hauled by pack animals and there were no railroads, water was the best way to ship bulk goods. The canal cut transport costs by about 95%, and ushered in New York's 19th century political and cultural ascendancy. Its peak year was 1855, when it handled Over 33,000 shipments. Its last large commercial ship was retired in 1994.

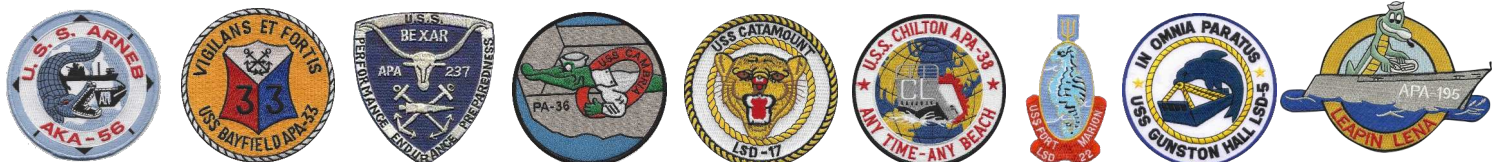
Our tour was followed by a terrific lunch at Fleet Landing, then back to the hotel by 2:00, allowing time for a nap or a visit to the hospitality room. Friday evening featured a Telfair- and Ray Casey-sponsored cake and ice cream social to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the launching of eight of the ships present.

Saturday we visited the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. We gathered on the fantail of the USS Little Rock for our annual Memorial Service. Steve Malloy of the Bexar was our chaplain, Paul Smith of the Yancey was the bell ringer while John Karlis and George Clifton of the Yancey read the names of the deceased. A bugler played taps to conclude the service.

Following the service we were free to go on a guided tour of the cruiser USS Little Rock, the destroyer USS The Sullivans and the submarine USS Croaker or to explore on our own.

The Little Rock was one of 27 Cleveland-class light cruisers completed during or shortly after WWII. In the late 1950s she was converted to a guided missile cruiser armed with Talos anti-aircraft missiles. Recommissioned in 1960 as CLG-4, she served as flagship for the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. Decommissioned in 1976, she was towed a year later to Buffalo.

USS The Sullivans was named in honor of the five Sullivan brothers, aged 20 to 27, who lost



their lives when their ship, USS Juneau, was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. This was the greatest military loss by one American family during WWII. The ship was commissioned in 1943 and decommissioned in 1965. She was towed to Buffalo with the Little Rock in 1977. She is leaking right now, and there is a campaign to raise money for her repair.

USS Croaker served in various roles from 1943-1968. She has been a museum ship since 1977, at Buffalo since 1988.

The Naval and Military Park also has an interesting museum for those who were tired of climbing on ships.

We concluded our day with a trip into Buffalo and the Pearl Street Brewery for lunch.

Sunday was the day that brought many to the reunion: our trip to Niagara Falls. It was again a beautiful day and it is hard to describe the majesty of this group of three waterfalls located on the U.S.-Canadian border. The largest, Horseshoe Falls, straddles the international border. The smaller American and Bridal Veil Falls lie entirely within the U.S. More than six million cubic feet of water goes over the crest of the falls every minute.

The falls are famed both for their beauty and as a source of hydroelectric power. In 1895, under the leadership of Westinghouse Electric Company and Serbian-American electrical genius Nikola Tesla, Niagara Falls became the birthplace of the electrification of the world.

The main tour group stayed on the American side of the falls, and enjoyed themselves immensely at attractions such as Niagara Falls State Park and the Maid of the Mist tour boat.

A separate group of adventuresome souls with U.S. passports could register for an extra-

cost tour of the Canadian side. That side features attractions such as the manicured gardens of Queen Victoria Park and the Skylon Tower, allowing observation of the falls from a point 775 feet from their bottom.

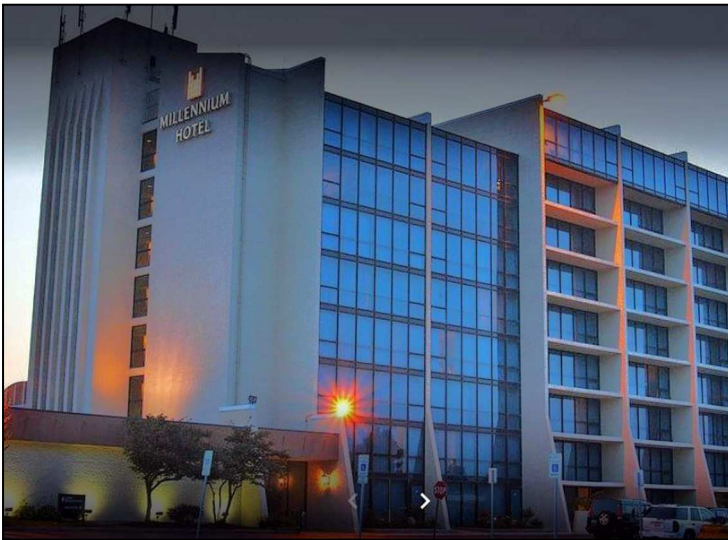
The main group continued its day with lunch and a city tour of downtown Buffalo and many outlying neighborhoods. Then it was back to the hotel to get ready for pictures and the banquet.

After a hectic photo session, the banquet began with the Missing Man Table ceremony, again thanks to Steve Malloy, John Karlis and Paul Smith. Skip Sander then welcomed all and introduced the three 90 year olds in attendance who each spoke briefly. During dinner we were entertained by Friends of Harmony, a local barbershop chorus. This concluded the reunion and many stayed to talk or gather in the hospitality room for a nightcap.

Monday morning we again had a private buffet breakfast and a chance to say goodbyes until next year's reunion in Annapolis. We're happy that you came to the reunion, and we hope to see all of you next year. Don't forget to spread the word about us to your shipmates who couldn't attend—they might enjoy reuniting with people they might not have seen for fifty years or more.



# Our Hotel



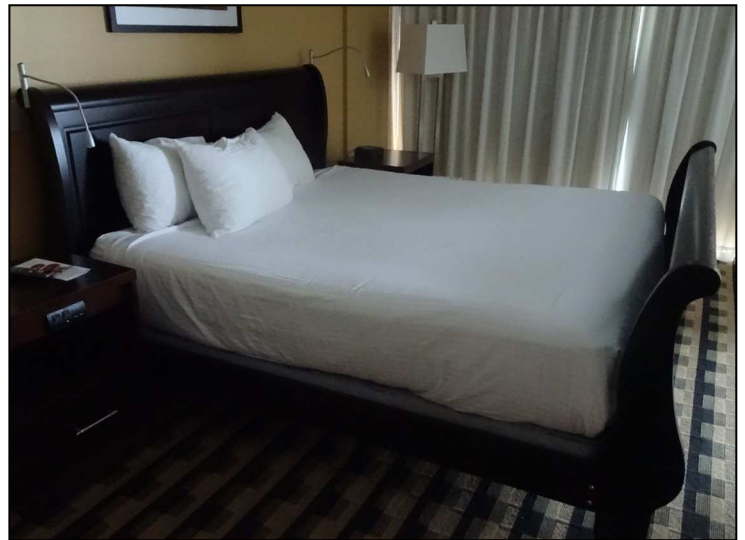
Millennium Hotel Buffalo



They know we are here!



Checking into the hotel



A comfortable bed



The view from Room 801



The view from Room 726

# Reunion Registration



Well begun is half done!



It's a madhouse!



Hurry up!



PLEASE hurry up!



I'm getting close...



How can we help you?

# Welcome Reception



Preparing to go



See all the people



It's a pretty nice reception



With a lot of camaraderie



Among old friends and new



Eight or ten to a table



# Hospitality Room



Continuing yesterday's conversations



With another group of friends



And another



Gators have a LOT in common

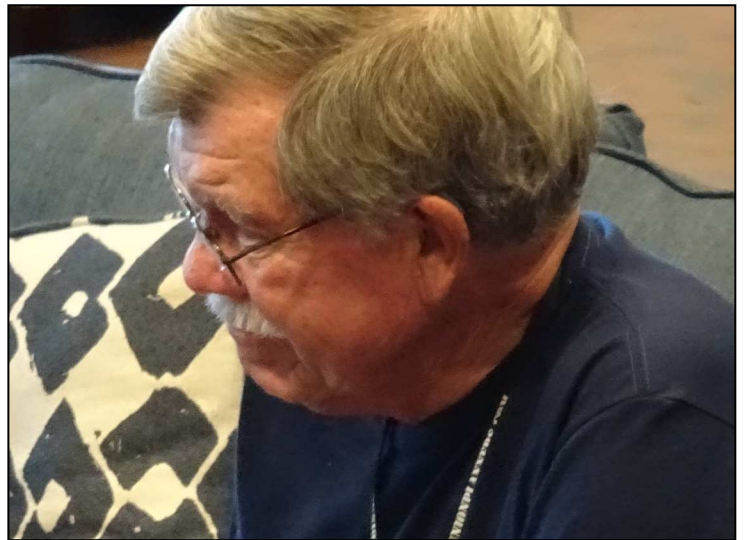


The best reunion bar anywhere



Celebrating our WWII launchings

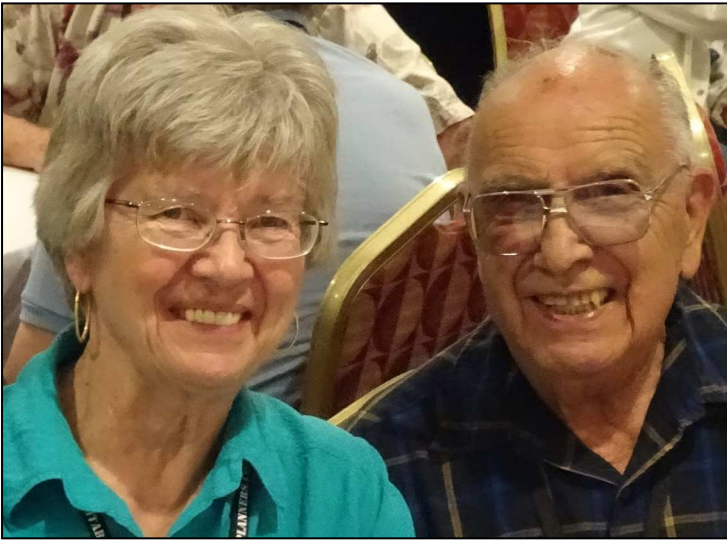
# Amphibious Personalities



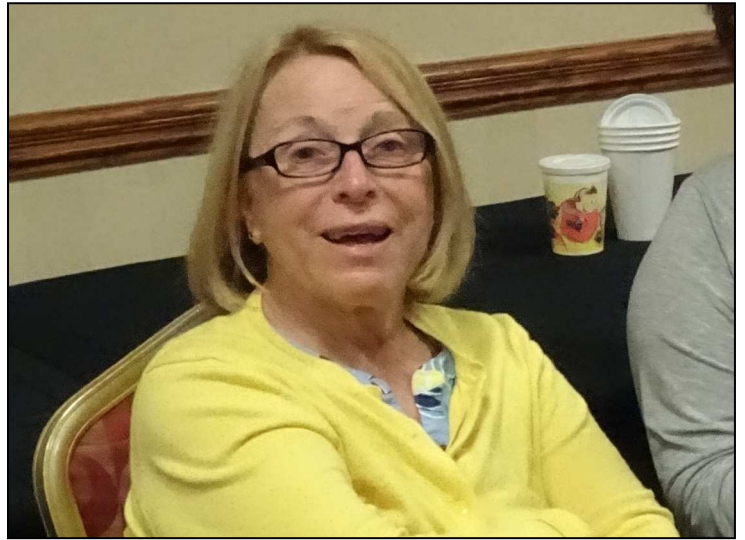
# Amphibious Personalities



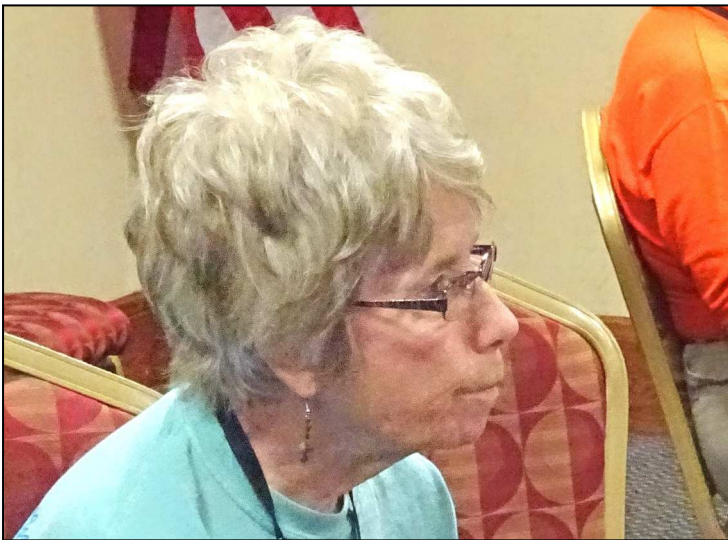
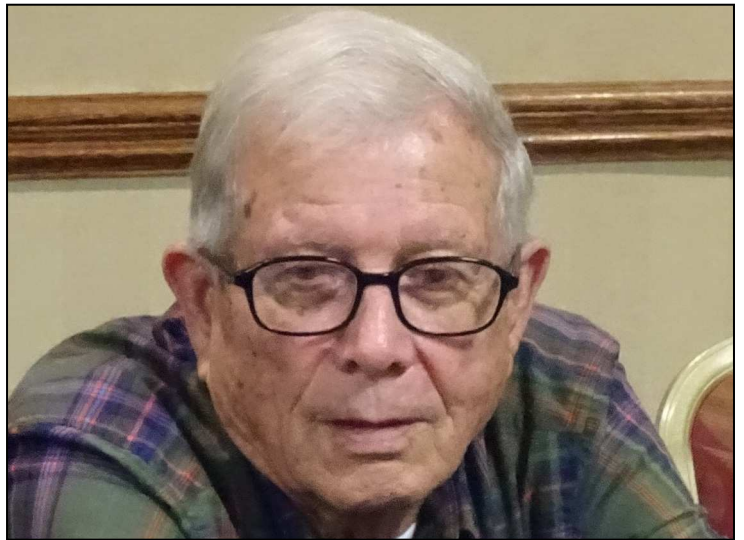
# Amphibious Personalities



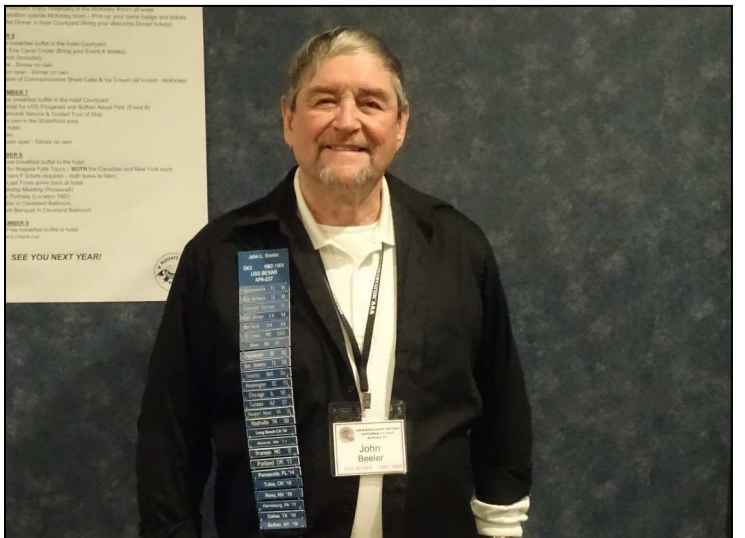
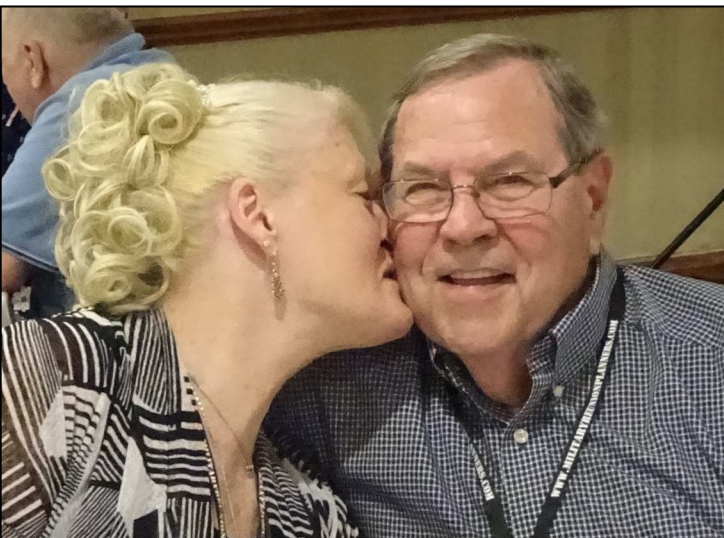
# Amphibious Personalities



# Amphibious Personalities



# Amphibious Personalities



# Erie Canal Cruise



En route to the canal



What a beautiful day!



Low bridge, everybody down!



Up we Go!



Modern ironwork



Not-so-modern home construction



# Erie Canal Cruise



Approaching a lock



Hello down there!



Yet another lock



Here we go again!



Lunch at Fleet Landing



With a picturesque Master of Ceremonies

# Buffalo Naval & Military Park



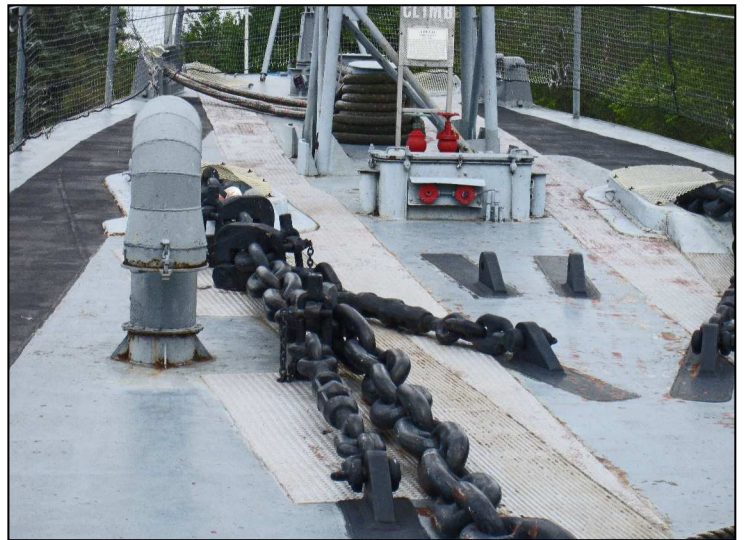
Entering the Naval & Military Park



USS Little Rock (CLG-4)



Talos missile launcher



Ground tackle



A Talos missile



The bridge

# Buffalo Naval & Military Park



Six-inch guns



Talos missile storage



Scullery. Do you remember these?



Highlining a man in a Bosun's chair



It's not *all* Naval!



USS The Sullivans

# Buffalo Naval & Military Park



The Sullivans' quarterdeck



The Sullivans' superstructure



USS Croaker (SS-246)



Boy, it's cramped in there!

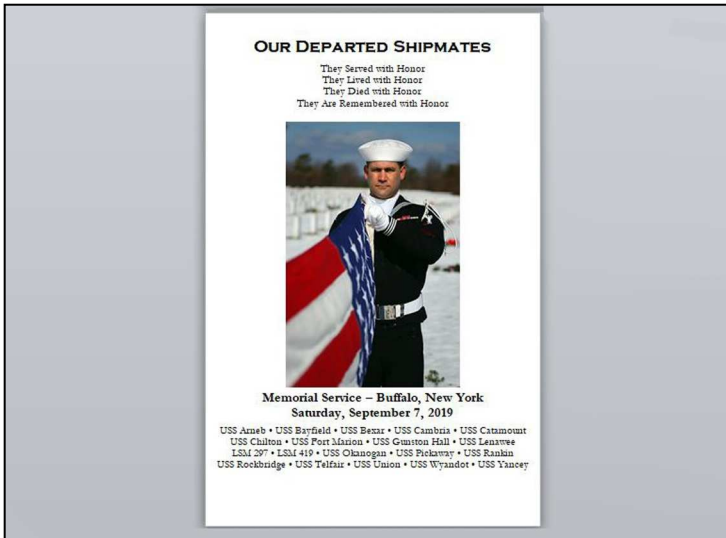


Alongside the pier



The Pearl Street Brewery

# Memorial Service aboard USS Little Rock



Honoring our departed shipmates



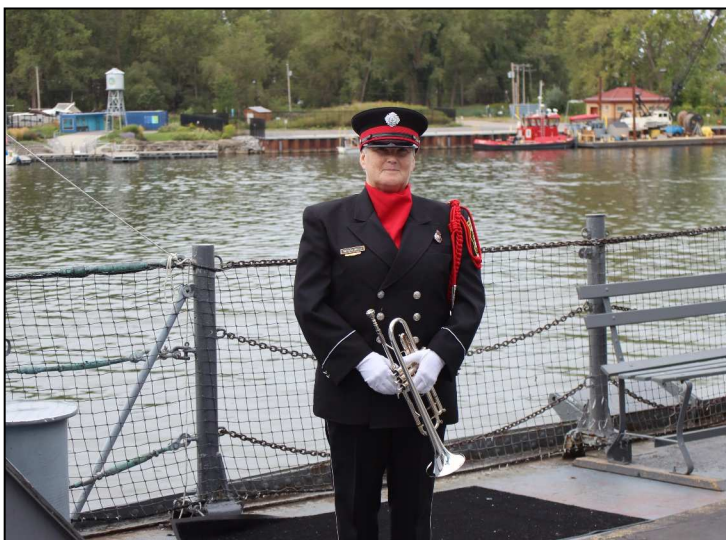
The bell service



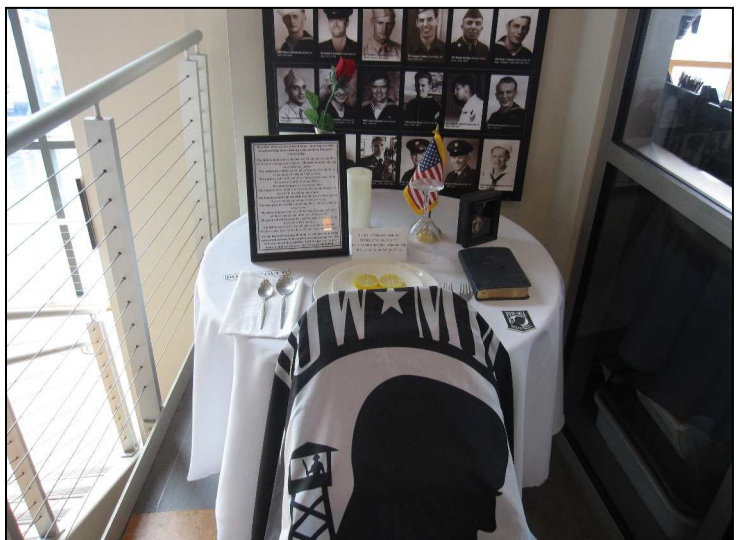
The assembled guests...



...and even more of them.



The bugler played Taps



Missing man table

# Niagara Falls



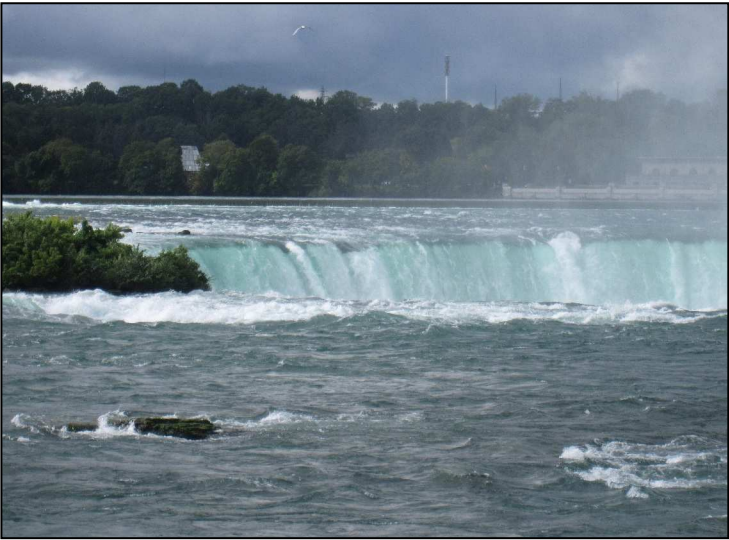
The American Side



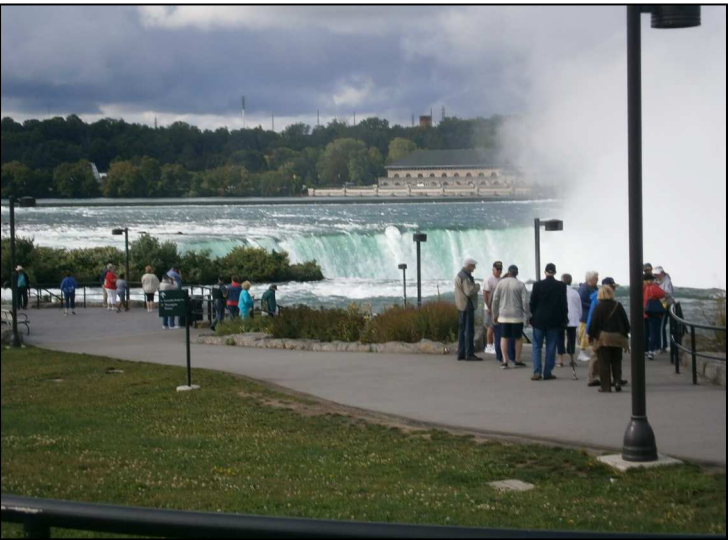
The American Falls, up close ...



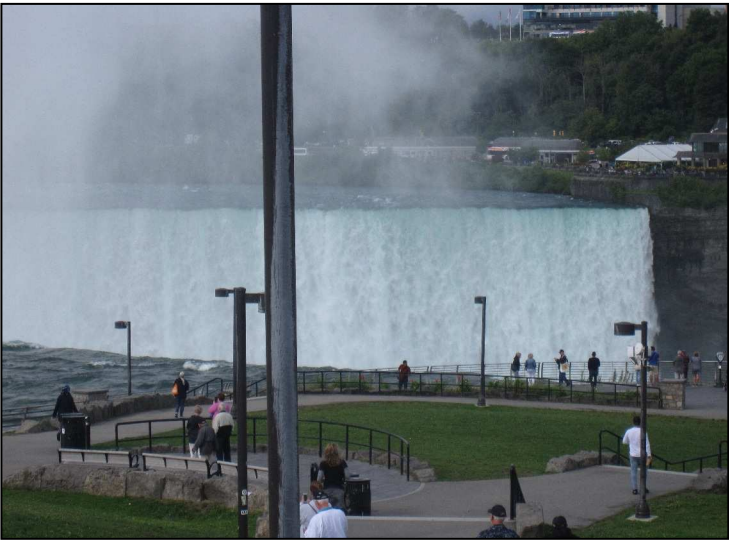
... and from a distance...



...and from a different angle.



Looking into Canada

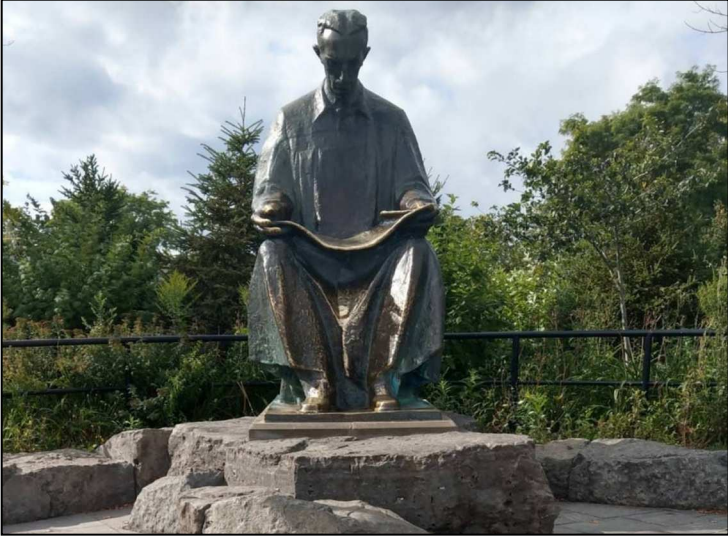


Bridal Veil Falls

# Niagara Falls



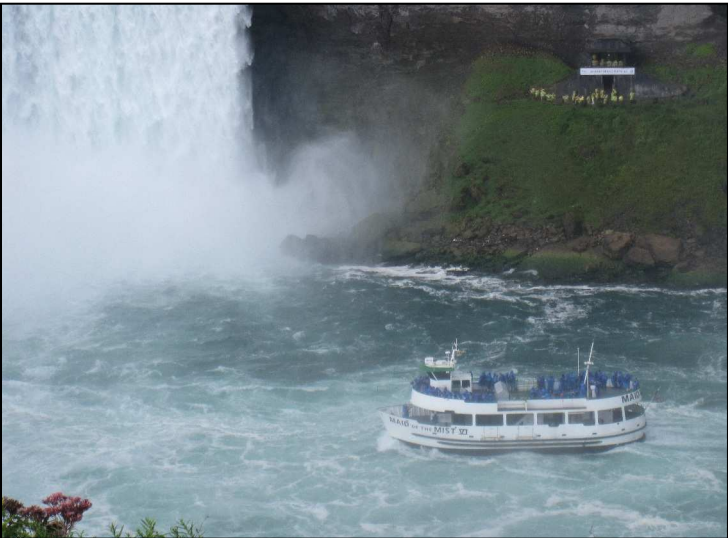
Are you tempted to jump in?



Inventor Nikola Tesla



Horseshoe Falls



Would you like to be the coxswain?



View from the Canadian side



Homeward bound!

# Farewell Banquet



Missing Man Table



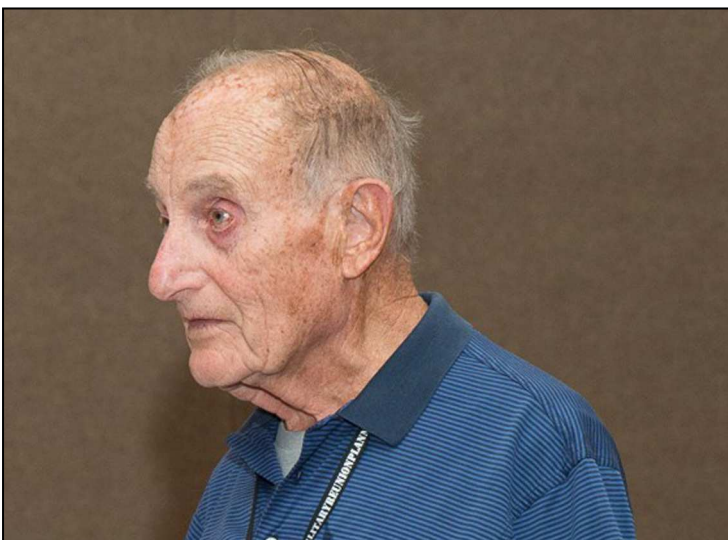
Missing Man Ceremony



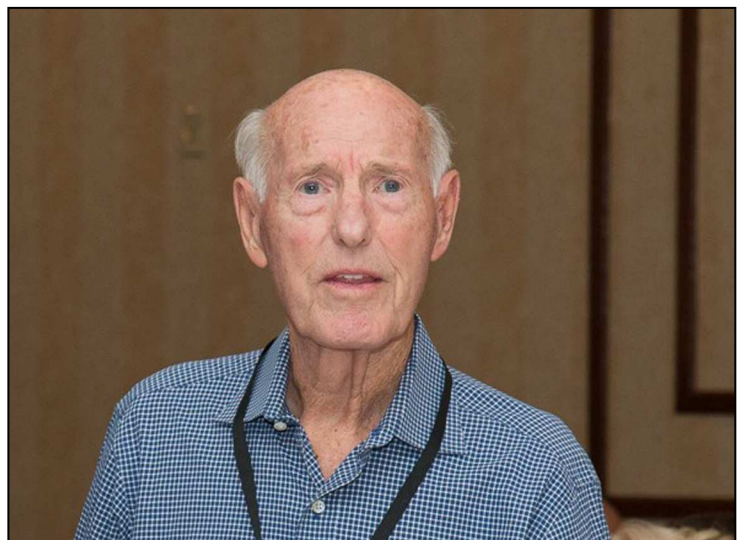
Skip Sander welcomes the group



90+ Melvin Munch, Born 8/26/1926



90+ Karl Manders, Born 1/21/1927



90+ Royce Ford, Born 8/31/1927



# Farewell Banquet



Won't you join us for dinner?



Enjoying the meal



Enjoying the company



This is *not* the mess deck



The Friends of Harmony chorus



Ray Casey, Born Entertainer

# USS Bayfield Shipmates and Guests



**Ben & Mary Ann Fleming**

1948-1951

RM2



**Jack & Deb Kivett**

1955-1960

BT1



**Rueben & Sandra McKinzey**

1954-1956

DC1



**Mike & Gayle McMurry**

1964-1965

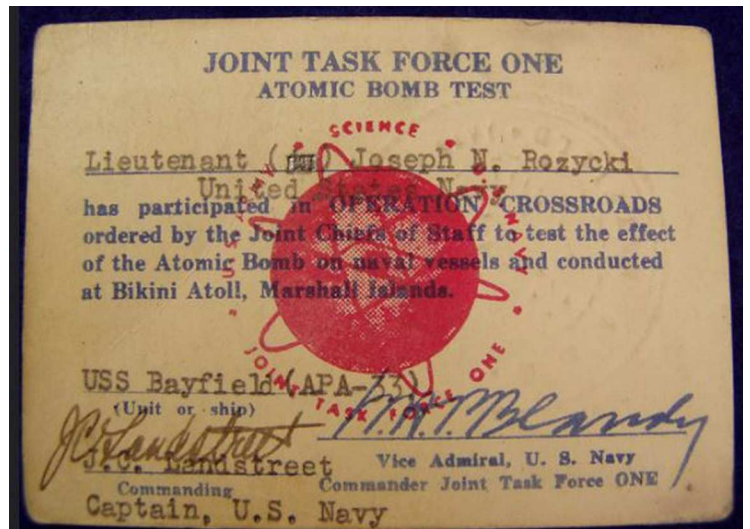
ENS



**Jim & Pam Orebaugh**

1960-1961

RD2



**Absent: Joseph N. Rozycki, 1946, LTJG**

# USS Bayfield Shipmates and Guests



# USS Bayfield Shipmates and Guests



**Mellanie and Sally Barker**  
Guests of Mike McMurry



**Susan Farmer, Ben and Mary Ann Fleming, Laurie Rodriguez**

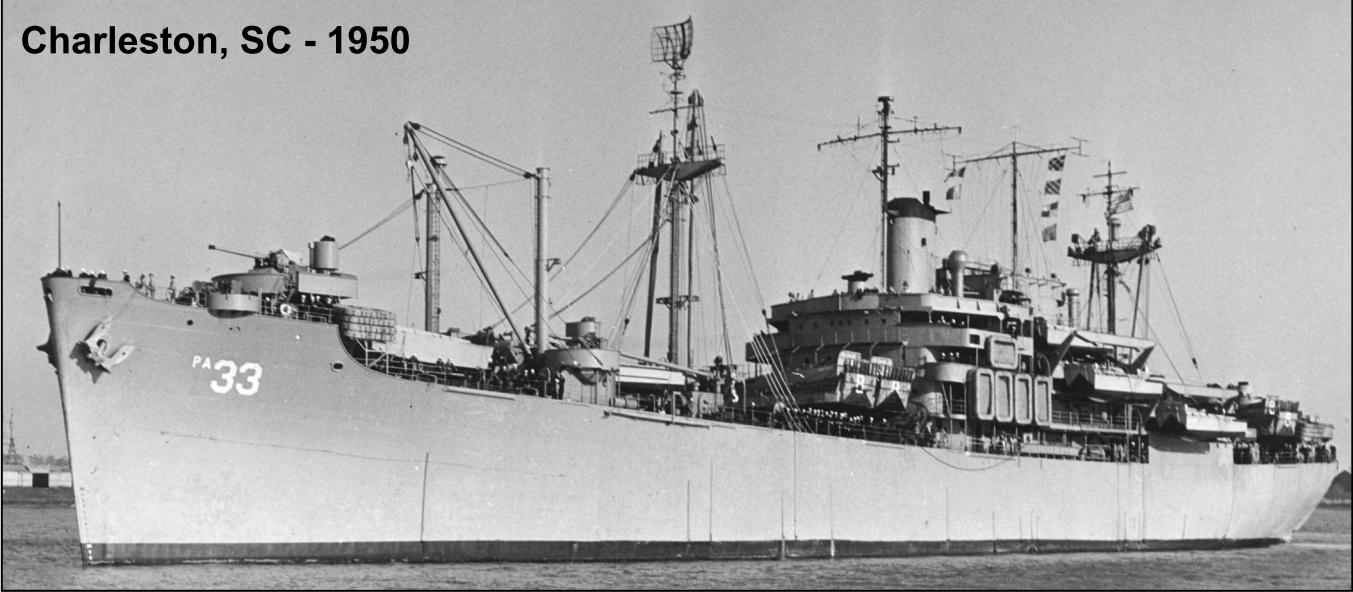


**Jacob Andrews, Sandra McKinzey, Heather Andrews**



**Sally Barker, Mellanie Barker, Gayle McMurry, Mike McMurry**

**Charleston, SC - 1950**



# USS Bayfield Shipmates and Guests



**Bayfield in WWII Dazzle Pattern Camouflage**



**Bayfield as Utah Beach flagship – Normandy, June 6, 1944**

# USS Bexar Shipmates and Guests



**Bill & Karen Hammack**

1968-1970

FN



**Don Laubhan & Carol Blackburn**

1960-1963

RDSN



**Bill & Nancy MacMillan**

1960-1962

MM2



**Steve Malloy & Jofa Gallagher**

1964-1967

SK2



**Gary Padgette & Meredith Zallar**

1961-1964

BMSN



**Richard & Eunice Stiger**

1954-1956

SK3

# USS Bexar Shipmates and Guests



# USS Cambria Shipmates and Guests



**Gene & DeAnn Dodd**

1958-1961

YN3



**Roland Parker**

1965-1968

MM3



USS Cambria Underway - Early 1960s



# USS Cambria Shipmates and Guests



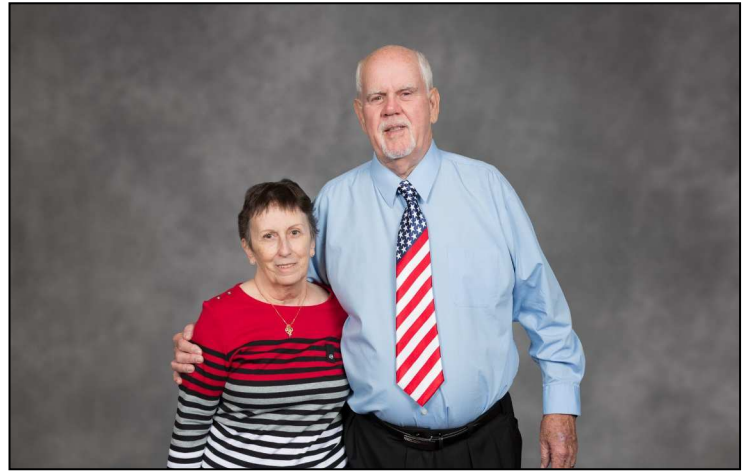
# USS Chilton Shipmates and Guests



**Richard Bergman & Patricia Dykstra**

1966-1969

BM3



**Joseph & Nancy Doherty**

1963-1965

SN



**Ralph & Mary Herzler**

1967-1969

HM1



**Bill Seymer**

1968-1971

BM3

## USS Chilton in Panama - 1957



# USS Chilton Shipmates and Guests



# USS Pickaway Shipmates and Guests



**Jimmy Cee & Louise Miller**

1960-1964

EN2



**Chuck & Chris Chidsey**

1967-1969

SHS3



**Jerome & Gloria Gonzales**

1964-1966

HM3



**Jim & Rajet Metz**

1963-1965

YN3



**Buzz Stewart & Diana Erdman**

1964-1965

IC3



**Doug Voeltz**

1965-1967

FN

# USS Pickaway Shipmates and Guests



# USS Rankin Shipmates and Guests



**Dave Beeler**

1963-1966

ETN3



**Bill & Bettye Devroe**

1963-1965

SK3



**Willie Dunning**

1962

PFC, USMC



**Ray & Jackie Falker**

1964

MMFN



**Harry & Virginia Fuerstenberger**

1965

ICFN



**Craig & Deborah Holliday**

Guests of Sherrill Pittman

# USS Rankin Shipmates and Guests



**Jim & Lee Jarrett**  
Guests of Dr. Karl Manders



**Dale Koepp**  
1962-1965  
FN



**Karl & Ann Manders**  
1952-1954  
LT(MC)



**James Harvey McCubbin**  
1962-1965  
RD2



**Harry & Laura Moses**  
1966-1968  
BM3



**Melvin Munch**  
1946  
s1/c

# USS Rankin Shipmates and Guests



**Sherrill & Shirley Pittman**

1954-1958

RM3



**Jim Plumb & Mary Gustafson**

1966-1968

BT3



**Skip Sander**

1961-1963

LTJG



**Tex Spicer**

1960-1962

BT3



**Walt & Arleen Stringer**

1965-1969

MM3



**Dave & Nancy Stump**

1958-1960

LTJG



# USS Rankin Shipmates and Guests



# USS Telfair Shipmates and Guests



**Alex Alexander**

1952-1954

BMSN



**Ken & Pam Bibb**

1966-1968

EN3



**Bill & Barbara Bunger**

1966-1968

QM3



**Steve & Erica Carr**

1966-1968

EN3



**Richard Disotell**

1962-1965

QM2



**Royce & Peggy Ford**

1950-1951

QMQ3

# USS Telfair Shipmates and Guests



**Henry Garcia**

1966-1968

BM3



**Jim & Shirley Harvey**

1951-1954

RM1



**Frank & Bonnie Hilberer**

1965-1968

EM2



**Brian & Jean Miller**

1961-1964

LTJG



**Jim & Pam Orebaugh**

1961-1962

RD2



**Jose & Sherry Rivera**

1966

SN

# USS Telfair Shipmates and Guests



**Dave & Barb Robbins**

1964-1967

FTG2



**Jim & Susie Rosenow**

1966-1968

PN3



**Don Rushford & Barb DeSimone**

1950-1953

MM1



**Mike & Flossie Schultz**

1964-1967

EN2



**Lisa Temmerman & Jamie McCabe**

Guests of Jim & Shirley Harvey



**Jon Tustin & Carolyn Hughes**

1966-1968

SN

# USS Telfair Shipmates and Guests



# USS Yancey Shipmates and Guests



**Jeff & Isabelle Amundsen**

1967-1968

RD3



**John & Velma Birkel**

1961-1965

QM2



**Connie & Jeff Boyd**

1961-1963



**George Clifton**

1963-1967

QM2



**Paul & Patricia Dunn**

1965-1969

LTJG



**Elton & Ada Fauber**

1952-1956

QM2

# USS Yancey Shipmates and Guests



**John Karlis**

1966-1968

EM3



**Duane, Betty & Sonja Malme**

1955-1957

MM3



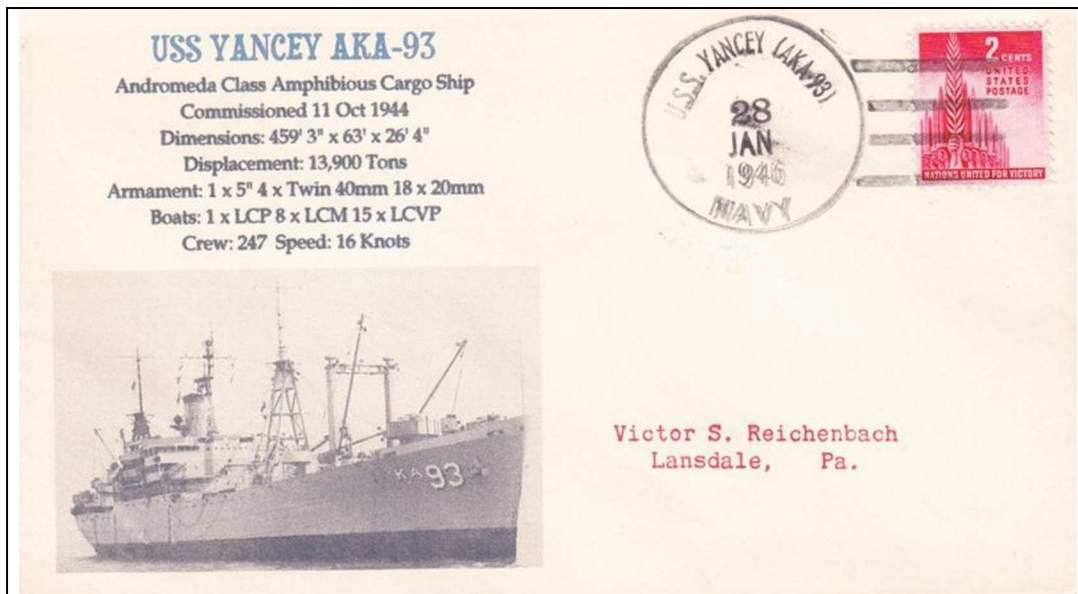
**Paul Smith**

1966-1968

EM3



**Merry Christmas!**



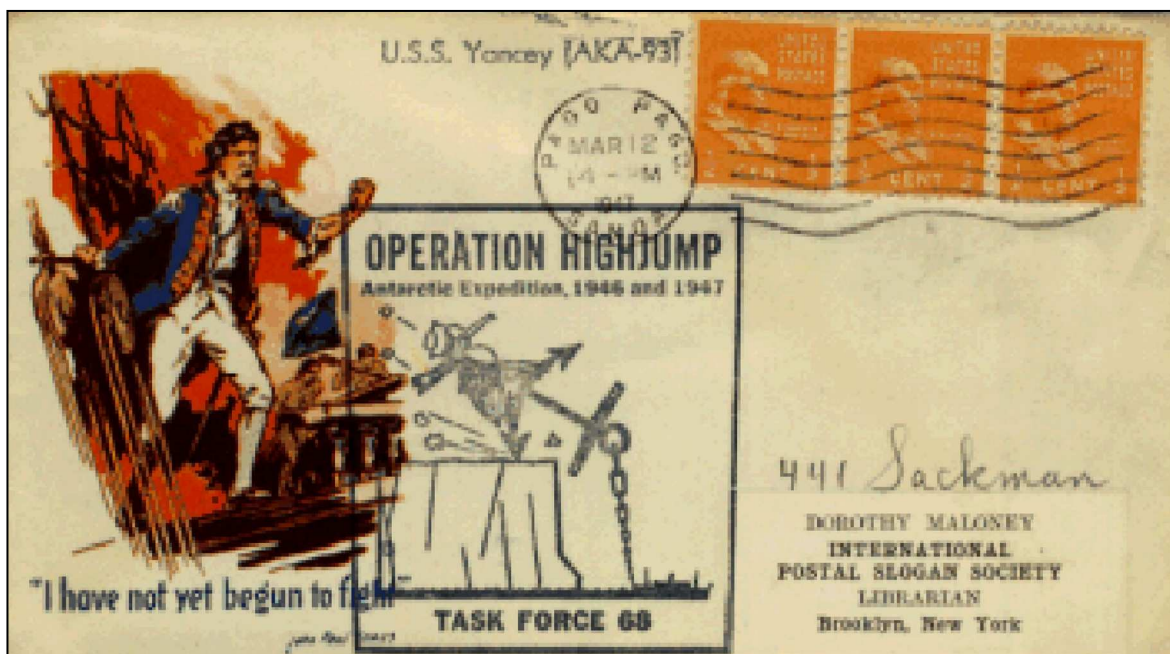
# USS Yancey Shipmates and Guests



**Operation Highjump - 1947**



# USS Yancey Shipmates and Guests



Operation Highjump Postal Cover - 1947

# Shipmates and Guests from Other Ships



## USS Arneb

David Blanch  
1960-1961, ENS

## USS Catamount

Ray Leon  
1952-1954, MM2

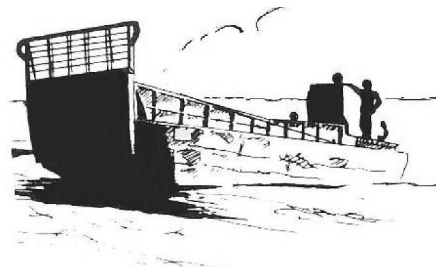
## USS Gunston Hall

Louie Walters  
1965-1969, CS2



## USS Fort Marion

Ray & Linda Francis  
1965-1968, BT2



# Groups from Other Ships



Ray Leon, David Blanch, Louie Walters  
Louise Leon, Mary Ann Jarvi



Joseph Campos, Don Fletcher  
Maureen Campos, Maryann Fletcher

# Shipmates and Guests from Other Ships



## USS Lenawee

**Joe & Jocelyn Bieluch**

1964, EN3



## USS Lenawee

**Bobby Scott**

1954-1955, SN



## USS LSM-297

**George Collins & Marlene Censki**

1957-1960, EN3



## USS Rockbridge

**Joseph Campos**

1964-1966, EM3

**Don Fletcher**

1965-1967, EM3



## USS Wyandot

**Mike & Irma Montesano**

1953-1956, FP3

## USS Arneb



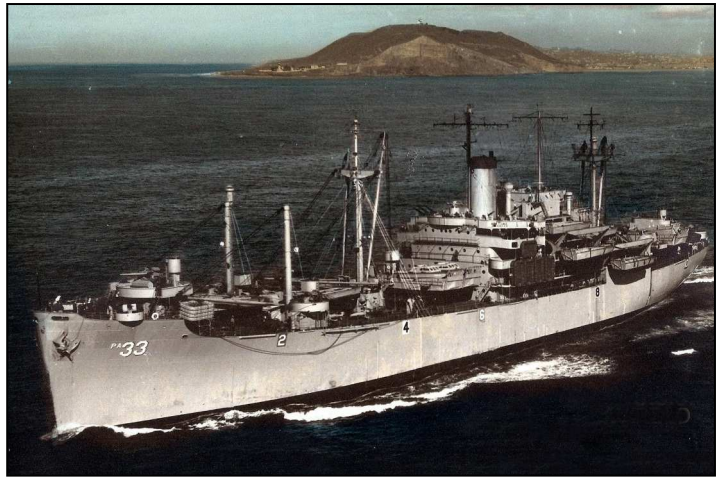
Laid down, date unknown, at Moore Drydock Co., Oakland, CA. Launched 6 July 1943. Towed to Portland, OR, for conversion to AKA. Commissioned USS Arneb (AKA-56) 26 April 1944. Named after the star. Assigned Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Operations: Western Caroline Islands, Leyte, Manila Bay, Okinawa Gunto. Postwar Occupation service in the Far East and China. Decommissioned at Philadelphia, 16 March 1948. Recommissioned on 19 March 1949. Flagship of Operation Deep Freeze I, 1955. Cold weather operations and Antarctic logistic support, 1955-1964. Decommissioned 12 August 1971 at Norfolk. Scrapped in 1973.

## USS Bexar



Laid down 2 June 1945 at Oregon Shipbuilding Corp., Portland. Launched 25 July 1945. Commissioned USS Bexar (APA-237) 9 October 1945. Named after Bexar County, TX. Assigned to Occupation and China service in the Far East, 1948, 1951, 1955. Assigned to Operation Crossroads atomic bomb testing, 1946. Korean War campaigns, 1950-1952. Vietnam War campaigns, 1964-1969. Decommissioned 15 December 1969. Scrapped in Taiwan, 1982. Earned three battle stars for Korean War service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars for Vietnam War service.

## USS Bayfield



Laid down 14 November 1942 at Western Pipe and Steel Co., San Francisco. Launched 15 February 1943. Placed in reduced commission for transport. Decommissioned 19 July 1943, Atlantic Basin Iron Works, Brooklyn, NY. Commissioned 20 November 1943 as USS Bayfield (APA-33) with a Coast Guard crew. Named after Bayfield County, WI. Served at the Invasion of Normandy, Invasion of Southern France, Iwo Jima, Okinawa Gunto, 1944-1945. Atomic testing, 1946. Korean War service, 1950-1952. Operation Passage to Freedom, 1954-1955. Vietnam, 1965-1967. Decommissioned at Long Beach, 28 June, 1968. Scrapped, 1968.

## USS Cambria



Laid down 1 July 1942 at Western Pipe and Steel Co., San Francisco. Launched 10 November 1942. Acquired by the Navy, 4 May 1943 and placed in partial commission for transit to her conversion yard. Decommissioned 22 June 1943 for conversion at Todd Shipyard, Hoboken, NJ. Recommissioned USS Cambria (APA-36), 10 November 1943, with a Coast Guard crew. Named for a county in PA. Participated: Marshall Islands, Marianas, Tinian, Leyte, Luzon & Okinawa Gunto operations. Postwar: Occupation service. Decommissioned 30 June 1949. Recommissioned 15 September 1950, with a Navy crew. Decommissioned, 1970. Sold for scrapping, 1971.

## USS Catamount



Casa Grande Class Dock Landing Ship. Laid down, date unknown, at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Newport News, VA. Launched 22 December 1944. Commissioned USS Catamount (LSD-17) 15 March 1945. Named in honor of the Catamount Tavern in Old Bennington, VT. Participated in seven Korean War campaigns, 1950-1953, eight Vietnam War Campaigns, 1958-1969. Decommissioned 7 April 1970, Bremerton WA. Sold for scrapping, 4 December 1975. Earned seven battle stars for Korean War service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with seven campaign stars for Vietnam War service.

## USS Chilton



Laid down at Western Pipe and Steel Co., San Francisco, date unknown. Launched 29 December 1942. Placed in partial commission for transit to New York. Decommissioned 10 July 1943 at Todd Erie Basin Shipyard, Brooklyn, for conversion as an APA. Recommissioned USS Chilton (APA-38) 7 December 1943. Named after a county in AL. Participated in Operation Okinawa Gunto, 1945. Following WWII, assigned to Occupation and China service, 1945-1954. Supported nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll, 1947. Decommissioned 1 July 1972. Sold for scrapping, 1974. Earned one battle star for WWII service.

## USS Fort Marion



Launched 22 May 1945 at Gulf Shipbuilding Corp., Chickasaw, AL. Commissioned USS Fort Marion (LSD-22) 29 January 1946. Named after the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, FL, which had been named Fort Marion from 1821 until 1942. Served in five campaigns in the Korean War, 1950-1952, and six in the Vietnam War, 1961-1969. Earned five battle stars for Korean War service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars for Vietnam War service. Decommissioned 13 February 1970 at Naval Station Bremerton, WA. Sold to the Republic of China in 1977, sunk as an artificial reef, 2000.

## USS Gunston Hall



Laid down 28 December 1942 at Moore Drydock Co., Oakland, CA. Launched 1 May 1943. Commissioned USS Gunston Hall (LSD-5) 10 November 1943. Named after the home of U.S. founding father George Mason. Participated in nine WWII Pacific campaigns. Decommissioned 7 July 1947 at San Francisco. Converted for Arctic service and recommissioned 5 March 1949, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. After a few Arctic operations, participated in eight campaigns in Korea and nine in Vietnam. Earned battle stars for WWII, Korea, and Vietnam service. Decommissioned May 1970. Sold to Argentina, scrapped there in 1981.

## USS Lenawee



Laid down 26 May 1944 at Kaiser Shipbuilding Corp., Vancouver, WA. Launched 11 Sept 1944. Commissioned USS Lenawee (APA-195). Named after a county in MI. Participated in Iwo Jima and Okinawa Gunto operations. Postwar, assigned to Occupation and China operations, 1945-1951. Decommissioned 3 August 1946, Stockton, CA. Recommissioned 30 Sept 1950. Participated in three campaigns in Korea, two in Vietnam. Earned battle stars for service in WWII and Korea. Earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Vietnam Service Medal with one campaign star. Decommissioned 20 June 1967. Scrapped at San Pedro, CA, 1975.

## USS LSM-419



LSM-1 Class Landing Ship Medium. See LSM-297 (above to the right) for specifications. Laid down 4 October 1944 at Dravo Corporation, Wilmington, DE. Launched 18 November 1944. Assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Following WWII, assigned to Occupation service in the Far East. During the Korean War, participated in five campaigns, including the Inchon Landing in 1950. Earned five battle stars for Korean War service. Decommissioned 16 February 1955, transferred that same day to South Korea. Decommissioned by South Korean Navy, 29 February 1963. Scrapped in 1963.

## USS LSM-297



LSM-1 Class Landing Ship Medium: Length 203' 6". Beam 34' 6". Draft light 3' 6" fwd, 7' 8" aft. Draft fully loaded 6' 4" fwd, 8' 3" aft. Complement 5 officers, 54 enlisted. Troop accommodations 2 officers, 46 enlisted. Speed 13.2 kts max. Endurance 4,900 miles @ 12 kts.

Laid down 5 October 1944, U.S. Navy Yard, Charleston, SC. Launched 30 October 1944. Commissioned as USS LSM-297, 18 December 1944. Assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Decommissioned 4 November 1957 at Astoria, OR. Sold for scrapping, November 1958. Converted to a barge, fate unknown.

## USS Okanogan



Laid down 10 August 1944 at Permanente Metals Corp, Yard No. 2, Richmond, CA. Launched 26 October 1944. Commissioned USS Okanogan (APA-220) 3 December 1944. Named after a county in WA. Participated in WWII's Okinawa Gunto operation. Later assigned to Occupation and China service in the Far East, 1945-1951. Participated in eight campaigns in Korea and six in Vietnam. Earned one battle star for WWII service, six for Korean service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars for Vietnam. Decommissioned 5 February 1970 at San Diego. Sold for scrapping, 2 October 1979.

## USS Pickaway



Laid down 1 September 1944 at Permanente Metals Corp., Richmond, CA. Launched 5 November 1944. Commissioned USS Pickaway (APA-222) 12 December 1944. Named after a county in Ohio. Participated in the WWII Iwo Jima operation, in six campaigns in Korea, and five in Vietnam. Earned one battle star for WWII service, six for Korean War service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with four campaign stars for Vietnam War service. Redesignated LPA-222 1 January 1969. Decommissioned 30 January 1970 at San Diego. Sold for scrapping in Taiwan, 15 February 1980.

## USS Rankin



Laid down 31 October 1944 at North Carolina Shipbuilding Co., Wilmington, NC. Launched 22 December 1944. Put in partial commission for transit. Decommissioned 27 January 1945 at Charleston Navy Yard for conversion to AKA. Re-commissioned as USS Rankin (AKA-103) 25 February 1945 at Charleston Navy Yard. Named for a county in MS. Participated in the Okinawa Gunto operation; one battle star. Occupation and China service 1945-1947. Decommissioned 21 May 1947 at San Francisco. Re-commissioned 22 March 1952, Alameda CA. Decommissioned 11 May 1971, Little Creek, VA. Sunk as a reef 6 miles off Stuart, FL 1988.

## USS Rockbridge



Laid down 2 September 1944 at Kaiser Shipbuilding Co., Vancouver, WA. Launched 28 October 1944. Commissioned USS Rockbridge (APA-228) 18 November 1944, named after a county in Virginia. Part of the WWII Iwo Jima operation, March 1945. Earned one battle star for WWII service. After WWII, assigned to Occupation and China service in the Far East, 1945. Decommissioned 8 March 1947. Re-commissioned 23 December 1950. Assigned to Occupation service in Europe, May-October 1955. Decommissioned 29 November 1968. Sold for scrapping, 13 May 1969.

## USS Telfair



Laid down 30 May 1944 at Permanente Metals Corp., Richmond, CA. Launched 30 August 1944. Commissioned USS Telfair (APA-210) 31 October 1944 at San Francisco. Named after a county in Georgia. Participated in the Okinawa Gunto operation, 1945. Assigned to Occupation and China service, 1945. Decommissioned 1 August 1946. Re-commissioned 12 September 1950. Participated in three Korean campaigns. Earned one battle star for WWII and three for Korean War service. Decommissioned 29 February 1958. Re-commissioned 22 November 1961. Decommissioned 31 October 1968 at Little Creek, VA. Sold for scrapping, 1969.

# USS Wyandot



Keel laid 6 May 1944 at Moore Drydock Co., Oakland, CA. Launched 28 June 1944. Commissioned as USS Wyandot (AKA-92), 30 September 1944. Named after a county in Ohio. Assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WWII. Earned one battle star for her WWII service. From 1947 to the late 1950s, she saw frequent service in Arctic and Antarctic waters, including time as flagship for Admiral Richard E. Byrd. Decommissioned in July, 1959. Recommissioned in November, 1961. Transferred to the Military Sea Transportation Service in 1963 and reclassified as T-AKA-92. Sold for scrap in 1987 and scrapped in Taiwan

# USS Yancey



Laid down 22 May 1944 at Moore Drydock Co., Oakland, CA. Launched 8 July 1944. Commissioned USS Yancey (AKA-93) 11 October 1944. Named after a county in NC. In WWII, participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa Gunto operations. Assigned post-WWII to Occupation and China service in the Far East. Participated in North Korea Aggression Campaign, 1950, First UN Counter Offensive, 1951. Antarctic service, 1947. Decommissioned 1957, San Francisco. Recommissioned 1961, Portland, OR. Struck the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, 1970. Decommissioned 1971, Norfolk. Sunk as an artificial reef off Moorehead City, NC, 1990.

## Reunion Attendees

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#### **USS Telfair APA-210**

1952-1954 BMSN  
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1968 QM1  
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1966-1968 BT3

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# Reunion Attendees by Ship

## USS Arneb

Blanch, David

## USS Bayfield

Barker, Sally

Mellanie Barker

Fleming, Ben

Mary Ann Fleming

Susan Farmer

Laurie Rodriguez

Kivett, Jack

(Daughter) Deb Kivett

McKinzey, Sandra

Heather Andrews

Jacob Andrews

McMurry, Mike

Gayle McMurry

Orebaugh, Jim

Pam Orebaugh

## USS Bexar

Beeler, John

Hammack, Bill

Karen Hammack

Laubhan, Don

Carol Blackburn

MacMillan, William

Nancy Macmillan

Malloy, Steve

Jofa Gallagher

Padgette, Gary R.

Meredith Zallar

Stiger, Richard

Eunice Stiger

## USS Cambria

Dodd, Gene

DeAnn Dodd

Henry, Hank

Donna J. Henry

Parker, Roland

## USS Catamount

Leon, Ray

Louise Leon

## USS Chilton

Bergman, Richard

Patricia Dykstra

Doherty, Joseph L.

Nancy J. Doherty

Herzler, Ralph

Mary Herzler

Palisin, George

Susan Palisin

Seymer, William

## USS Fort Marion

Francis, Raymond

Linda Francis

## USS Gunston Hall

Walters, Louie

Mary Ann Jarvi

## USS Lenawee

Bieluch, Joe

Jocelyn Bieluch

Scott, Bobby

## USS LSM-297

Collins, George

Marlene Censki

## USS LSM-419

Cummiskey, Bill

## USS Okanogan

Carney, Colin

Beth Carney

## USS Pickaway

Cee, Jimmy

Louise Miller

Chidsey, Chuck

Chris Chidsey

Gonzales, Jerome Lee

Gloria A. Gonzales

Metz, Jim

Rajet Metz

Stewart, Buzz

Diana Erdman

Voeltz, Doug

## USS Rankin

Beeler, Dave

Devroe, Bill

Bette Devroe

Dunning III, Willie D.

Falker, Ray

Jackie Falker

Fuerstenberger, Harry

Virginia Fuerstenberger

Koepp, Dale

Mary Anderson

Monica Woods

Maryah Sneed

Manders, Dr. Karl

Ann Manders

James Jarrett

Lee Jarrett

McCubbin, James Harvey

Moses, Harry

Laura Moses

Munch, Melvin

Meladie Munch

Melva Graham

Larry Graham

Pittman, Sherrill

Shirley Pittman

Deborah Holliday

Craig Holliday

Plumb, Edward "Jim"

Mary Gustafson

Sander, Louis "Skip"

Spicer, Tex

Loraine Hamby

Stringer, Walter

Arleen Stringer

Stump, Dave

Nancy Stump

## USS Rockbridge

Campos, Joseph

Maureen Campos

Fletcher, Don

Maryann Fletcher

## USS Telfair

Alexander, Leland "Alex"

Bibb, Ken

Pam Bibb

Birkel, John

Velma Birkel

Bunger, Bill

Barbara Bunger

Carr, Steve

Erica Carr

Disotell, Richard

Ford, Royce

Peggy Ford

Garcia, Henry

Harvey, Jim

Shirley Harvey

Jamie McCabe

Lisa Temmerman

Hilberer, G. Frank

Bonnie D Hilberer

Miller, Bryan K

Jean R. Miller

Orebaugh, Jim

Pam Orebaugh

Rivera, Jose F.

Sherry A. Rivera

Robbins, Dave

Barb Robbins

Rosenow, Jim

Susie Rosenow

Rushford, Don

Barb DeSimone

Schultz, Mike

Flossie Schultz

Tustin, Jon

Carolyn Hughes

## USS Wyandot

Montesano, Michael

Irma Montesano

## USS Yancey

Amundsen, Jeffrey

Isabelle Hanse-Amundsen

Birkel, John

Velma Birkel

Boyd, Connie

Jeff Boyd

Clifton, George

Dunn, Paul H.

Patricia L. Dunn

Fauber, Elton

Ada Fauber

Karlis, John

Malme, Duane

Betty Malme

Sonja Malme

Smith, Jr, Paul H.



## *The Erie Canal*

I've got a mule, her name is Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
She's a good old worker and a good old pal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal

We've hauled some barges in our day  
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay  
And we know every inch of the way  
From Albany to Buffalo

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge cause we're coming to a town  
And you'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal

Get up mule, here comes a lock,  
We'll make Rome 'bout six o'clock  
One more trip and back we'll go  
Right back home to Buffalo

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge for we're coming to a town  
And you'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If you've ever been a Gator on the Erie Canal.

*First published 1905.  
Last verse modified for the  
Amphibious Ships Reunion by  
Louis F. Sander*

## *Credits*

The 2019 Amphibious Ships Reunion was planned and organized by Military Reunion Planners of Grapevine, Texas, under the leadership and guidance of:



**George Clifton**  
USS Yancey

**Skip Sander**  
USS Rankin

**Ray Casey**  
MRP

The leaders of other organized groups in attendance are: USS Bayfield, Mike McMurry; USS Bexar, Steve Malloy; USS Cambria, Hank Henry; USS Chilton, Bill Seymer; USS Pickaway, Buzz Stewart; USS Telfair, Jim Rosenow.

Attendees from other ships were invited through communications with the leaders of their respective reunion groups or by invitations posted on [hullnumber.com](http://hullnumber.com) and elsewhere.

This Memory Book was created by Skip Sander and printed by [blurb.com](http://blurb.com). Photos of shipmates and their guests were taken by [NixImages.com](http://NixImages.com). Other photos were contributed by Alex Alexander, Joseph Campos, George Clifton, Henry Garcia, Jim Rosenow, and Skip Sander.



## **PARTICIPATING SHIPS**

USS Arneb  
USS Bayfield  
USS Bexar  
USS Cambria  
USS Catamount  
USS Chilton  
USS Fort Marion  
USS Gunston Hall  
USS Lenawee  
LSM-297  
LSM-419  
USS Okanogan  
USS Pickaway  
USS Rankin  
USS Rockbridge  
USS Telfair  
USS Wyandot  
USS Yancey